

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151360
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPE:PMCLEAN:WRF
APPROVED BY:EUR/RPE:PMCLEAN
-----065433 150626Z /21
R 142157Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 9976

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USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8756 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA
JUN 08.
QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 08756

USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, BG
SUBJECT: US/BANGLADESH BILATERAL

REF: (A) A-153, (B) GENEVA 4580, (C) GENEVA 7793

1. BANGLADESH DEL (AHMED) CALLED ON US MTN DEL (AMB.
MCDONALD/GRAEF) TO DISCUSS ONCE AGAIN HIS PROPOSALS FOR
SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED IN THE MTN.
AHMED INDICATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO LONDON FOR THE GRAINS
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PAGE 02 STATE 151360

NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD BE ABSENT FROM GENEVA FOR 10 DAYS.
HE STATED HIS OBJECTIVE IN LONDON WOULD BE TO OBTAIN A US
COMMITMENT FOR 50 PERCENT OF PROJECTED FOOD AID REQUIRE-
MENTS.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
AHMED HAD SENT LETTERS TO ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONCERN-

ING SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED DURING THE MTN
SIMILAR TO THE ONE RECEIVED BY THE US (REF A-153). HE HAS
FOLLOWED UP THIS LETTER WITH DISCUSSION WITH ALL DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES AND INDICATES ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT THE EC
IS PREPARED TO WAIVE DUTIES ON ALL PRODUCTS FROM ACPS
EXCEPT PRODUCTS COVERED BY MULTI-FIBER ARRANGEMENT. HE
HOWEVER IMPLIED THAT EC ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH A SCHEME WOULD
BE DEPENDENT ON US ACCEPTANCE. AHMED OPINED THAT HIS
SOURCES HAD INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO TROUBLE IN GAINING
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN APPROACH. WITH RESPECT
TO THE JAPANESE HE INDICATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO IN
WHATEVER DIRECTION THE EC AND US ADOPTED ON THIS QUESTION.
AHMED CONTINUALLY STRESSED THE SALUTORY EFFECT SUCH A
STEP WOULD HAVE ON THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE.

3. MTN DEL RESPONDED AS IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS IDENTIFYING
LEGISLATIVE CONSTRAINTS TO THE PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY AHMED
(SEE GENEVA 4580) AND STATED THAT THE US FOCUS WAS STILL
TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF LEAST DEVELOPED ON A
PRODUCT SPECIFIC BASIS AND POINTED TO FULL AUTHORITY
OFFERS ON JUTE PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO BANGLADESH. AHMED
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE US OFFER WAS GENEROUS WITH RESPECT
TO JUTE PRODUCTS BUT INDICATED THE BENEFITS OF SUCH AN
OFFER WOULD BE LARGELY TO INDIA AND THUS THERE WAS NO
SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR BANGLADESH AS A LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRY.

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PAGE 03 STATE 151360

4. COMMENT. MTN DEL CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD
TAKE SOME INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO LEAST DEVELOPED IN
JULY 15 SETTLEMENT (SEE REFTEL C). ANOTHER IDEA WOULD BE
TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL SEEK LEGIS-
LATION TO CONTINUE GSP BEYOND 1985 FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD HAVE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES: (1) GIV-
ING SOME SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO LLDCS, (2) REMINDING
MORE ADVANCED LDCS THAT GSP IS A TEMPORARY PROGRAM, AND
(3) INTRODUCING THE CONCEPT OF GRADUATION AS A REALITY.
(FULL DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSAL WAS POUCHED TO LANDE).
END COMMENT.

5. DRAFTED BY MCDONALD & GRAEF. MCDONALD UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TRADE CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:PMCLEAN:WRF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0969
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780659/aaaabyqt.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f775e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 4580, 78 GENEVA 7793
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2348661
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/BANGLADESH BILATERAL
TAGS: ETRD, BG, US, MTN
To: USEEC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f775e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014